

Appl. No. : 10/697,401
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REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 27-29 are pending. Claims 23-26 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 12, 18, and 27 are amended herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 18, 19, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yudovsky et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,248,176. Claim 1 has been amended to recite a recessed pocket and a support element radially inward of an outer edge of the recessed pocket, wherein the support plane is located above an uppermost surface of a portion of the recessed pocket radially inward of the support element. Claims 18 and 27 have been similarly amended. These amendments are fully supported by the specification, as originally filed, at, for example, paragraph [0041].

Yudovsky et al. do not disclose or suggest a substrate holder comprising a recessed pocket and a support element(s) or veins radially inward of an outer edge of the recessed pocket, wherein the support plane or top surfaces of the plurality of veins are located above an uppermost surface of a portion of the recessed pocket radially inward of the support element or veins, as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 18, and 27. Yudovsky et al. do not disclose any type of recessed pocket, as recited in amended Claims 1, 18, and 27. As noted by the Examiner, Yudovsky et al. disclose “a deflection member (support element) 100, wherein the deflection member 100 comprises an annular ring having a plurality of grooves (veins) 106” and that the “deflection member (annular veined ring) 100 can be oriented in the same horizontal plane as the upper surface 32 of the support member 30 (that is, the deflection member/annular veined ring 100 can support the outer edge of the wafer 14).” Yudovsky et al. teach that the substrate 14 is supported by the support member 30 and that the deflection member (annular ring of veins) is either in the same horizontal plane as the upper surface 32 of the support member 30 or below the upper surface 32 of the support member 30. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion of, nor any motivation to provide, a support element(s) radially inward of an outer edge of the recessed pocket. Thus, Yudovsky et al. do not disclose or suggest a recessed pocket and a support element radially inward of an outer edge of the recessed pocket, the support element being configured to support a substrate of a particular size in a support plane defined by the support element, the support plane located above an uppermost surface of a portion of the recessed pocket radially

inward of the support element, wherein the support element comprises an annular veined ring supporting an outer edge of the substrate when the substrate is supported on the support element, as recited in amended Claim 1. Similarly, Yudovsky et al do not disclose or suggest a recessed pocket and a support surface sized to support a substrate of a particular size in a support plane, wherein the support plane is formed by top surfaces of a plurality of veins substantially angled with respect to a radial direction, the plurality of veins being positioned radially inward of an outer edge of the recessed pocket, the support plane located above an uppermost surface of a portion of the recessed pocket radially inward of the plurality of veins, as recited in amended Claim 18, nor do Yudovsky et al disclose or suggest a recessed pocket and an annular ring of veins configured to support a substrate of a particular size, wherein each vein is generally parallel to two adjacent veins, substantially all of the veins being substantially angled with respect to a radial direction from a center of the ring, and wherein the annular ring of veins is located radially inward of an outer edge of the recessed pocket and top surfaces of the plurality of veins being located above an uppermost surface of a portion of the pocket radially inward of the plurality of veins, as recited in amended Claim 27.

Therefore, independent Claims 1, 18, and 27 are patentable as they are not anticipated by Yudovsky et al. Claims 2, 19, 28, and 29, which depend from and include all of the limitations of amended Claim 1, 18, or 27, are also patentable over Yudovsky et al. Furthermore, each of the dependent claims recites further distinguishing features of particular utility.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 4, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yudovsky et al. in view of Horiguchi et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0007791. Claims 5-11, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yudovsky et al. in view of Horiguchi et al. as applied to Claims 3 and 20, and further in view of Goodman, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0198910. Claims 12-17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yudovsky et al. in view of Goodman. Claim 12 has been amended to recite a substrate holder having a recessed pocket and a plurality of support elements radially inward of an outer edge of the recessed pocket, the support elements being configured to support a substrate of a particular size within a support plane defined by the plurality of support elements,

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the support plane located above an uppermost surface of a portion of the pocket radially inward of the support elements, wherein the support elements comprise a plurality of spaced veins configured in an annular ring to support an outer edge of the substrate. This amendment is fully supported by the specification, as originally filed, at, for example, paragraph [0041].

As discussed above, Yudovsky et al. do not teach or suggest a recessed pocket and a support element(s) radially inward of an outer edge of the recessed pocket, as recited in amended Claims 1, 12, and 18, which are therefore patentable over Yudovsky et al. Neither Horiguchi et al. nor Goodman supplies the deficiencies of Yudovsky et al. Thus, Claims 1, 12, and 18 are patentable because they are not obvious over Yudovsky et al, Horiguchi et al., and Goodman et al., alone or in combination. Without acquiescing in the Examiner's reasons for rejection, Applicants submit that Claims 3-11, 13-17, 20, and 21 are all allowable because they depend from and include all of the limitations of amended Claim 1, 12, or 18, which is patentable, as discussed above. Furthermore, each of the dependent claims recites additional features of advantage and utility.

Conclusion

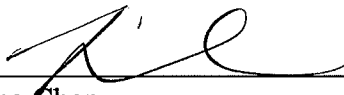
Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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